ALDERSON'S

RUDIMENTS

OF

PENMANSHIP,

Engraved by ASHBY.

FOUR COPY-BOOKS,

Price Five Shillings.

ASHFORD:

Published as the Act directs, November the 4th, 1797, by the Author, Ashford, Kent; and sold by H. Ashby, Engraver, No. 6, King-Street, Cheapside, London, by the Booksellers in Town and Country.

Entered at Stat

The following

Rudiments of Penmanship

are with the utmost gratitude and respect

dedicated by permission to

The Right Honourable

LADY ELIZABETH FINCH HATTON

by her Ladyship's

most obliged & obedient Servant

James Alderson.

MUSEUM
BRITAN
NICUM

INTRODUCTION.

THE great importance of good and expeditious writing to a commercial nation is too obvious to require a comment, and the very great perfection to which this art has arrived in Great Britain, affords a convincing proof that our country abounds with excellent teachers; ſtill there is not a doubt, that many who are anxious to acquire this eſſential qualification, have not from one circumſtance or another the opportunity of receiving the inſtructions of a maſter, and for want of a guide to aſſiſt them in the arduous taſk, imbibe ſuch errors as when once obtained can very rarely be obliterated: it is alſo well known that many who never ſuppoſed it would be their lot to become writing maſters, have from adverſe circumſtances or other cauſes, found it neceſſary to adopt this mode of gaining a livelihood; theſe teachers are no doubt equally anxious with thoſe who have been regularly educated for this employment, to inſtruct their pupils in the beſt manner they are able, but for want of this previous training may find themſelves ſomewhat at a loſs.

Influenced by theſe motives, coupled with an honeſt ambition of extending his own fame, the Publiſher of the following

RUDIMENTS OF PENMANSHIP,

offers them to the Public; he truſts he ſhall not be accuſed of rating his production too highly when he ſays, that convinced of its utility he offers it with confidence; ſince after ſerving an apprenticeſhip under one of the firſt writing-maſters of the age,* he has uniformly adopted this mode of teaching for upwards of twenty years with unvaried ſucceſs.

J. A.

Aſhford Academy,
KENT.

* Mr. S. BROWNE of Norwich.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

HOLDING THE PEN.

THE Pupil to be ſeated at his deſk in a poſition nearly upright, the body not touching the deſk; the book placed evenly before him, but ſo much to the right hand as to permit him to form the letters with their juſt ſlope, his elbow being near his ſide; the pen to be very lightly held between the thumb and two upper fingers, the nib inclining rather to the right, and about three fifths of an inch below the tip of the middle finger; the upper part of the thumb not to touch the fore finger, but a portion of the quill to be ſeen between them; the fingers ſtraight, the thumb bent ſo far outwards as to have its tip nearly as high as the firſt joint of the fore finger, the pen to paſs the ſecond joint of the ſame, the feather pointing over the ſhoulder; the hand held in an upright hollow poſition, reſting only on the tips of the under fingers; the upper and under fingers ſo ſeparated as to permit the writer to form all his letters merely with the motion of the thumb and two upper fingers.

FORMATION OF LETTERS.

The method of forming the generality of the letters will be known by inſpection; but the Pupil muſt obſerve, that in forming plain ſtemmed letters, as *b*, *h*, *l*, &c. the nib of the pen muſt be firmly placed on the head of the letter, and opened to ſuch extent as the ſubſtance of the letter requires, and thus continued through the ſtroke.

In forming the *o*, the pen muſt be placed about one-fourth below the line on the right of the letter, carried upwards, turned to the left, and the letter ſo finiſhed as to prevent its being ſeen where it was begun.

In all ſuch letters as require *o* for part of their formation, care muſt be taken to complete the *o* as before directed, before forming the remainder of the letter.

In forming the *m*, and all letters of a ſimilar kind, the pen to be taken off at the completion of ſuch ſtrokes as are not turned, placed on again at the bottom of thoſe ſtrokes, and to break gra-

dually from them about the middle of the letter; but where the ſtroke is to be turned, either at the top or bottom, *the pen on no account to be taken off*.

The Pupil muſt be particularly careful to obſerve this laſt direction; breaking off the pen improperly, is a very common, but very fatal error, ſince the writer who does it incapacitates himſelf for a good and expeditious penman.

DISTANCE AND PROPORTION.

I.

The diſtance between any two full ſtrokes to equal the width of the *u*.

II.

Between a full ſtroke and fine one three-fourths of the *u*.

III.

Between circular or oval letters half the *u*.

IV.

Letters with plain ſtems above or below the line twice the heighth or depth of the *u*.

V.

Capitals and looped letters about one ninth higher than thoſe with plain ſtems.

VI.

The dots of the *i* and *j* one eighth lower than plain ſtemmed letters.

VII.

The ſtrokes acroſs the *f* and *t* even with the head of the *u*.

VIII.

The diſtance between words the width of *m*.

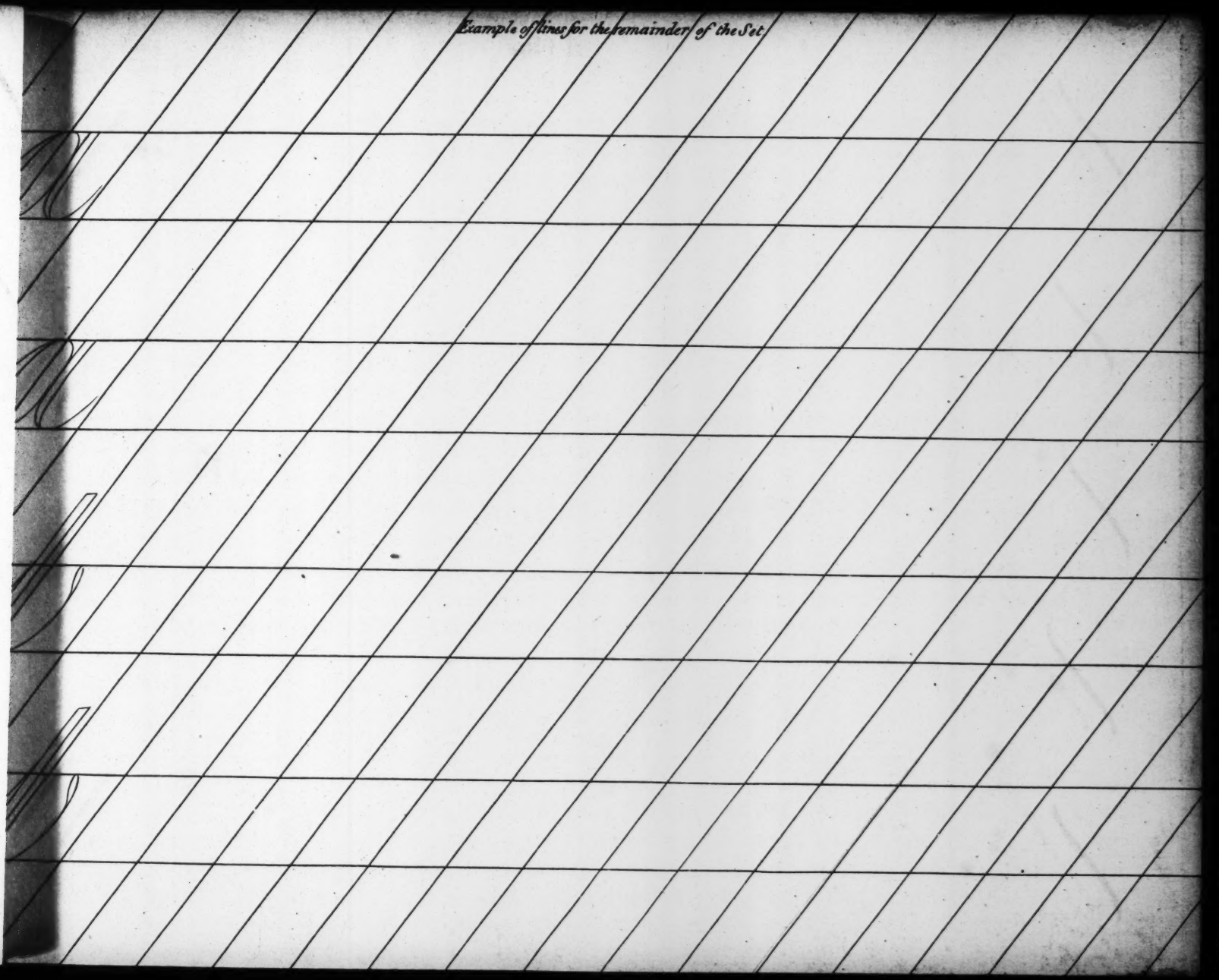
References to the above rules are given in the following examples, each numbered according to its reſpective rule.

In ſuch copies as have but two examples given, each example to be repeated in the ſucceeding line.

As lines to the copies could not have been engraved without a material difference in the expence of the work, the publiſher has given examples in the manner the copies are to be ruled.

The ſlant lines will be found extremely uſeful, as with their aſſiſtance the learner will be accuſtomed from the commencement to form his letters with their juſt ſlope.

Exam. 9 Lines for the first Sixteen Copies.


Example of lines for the remainder of the Set

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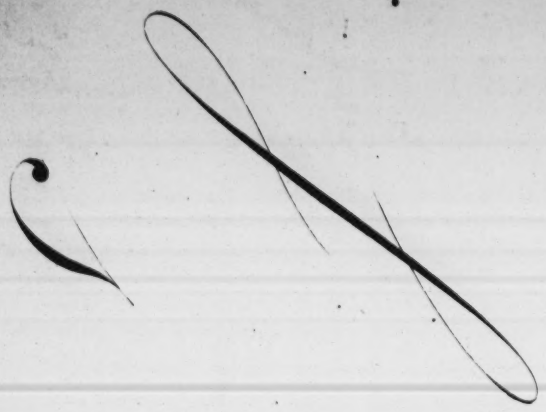

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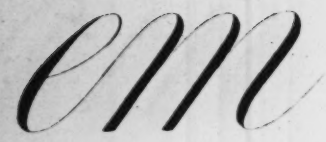

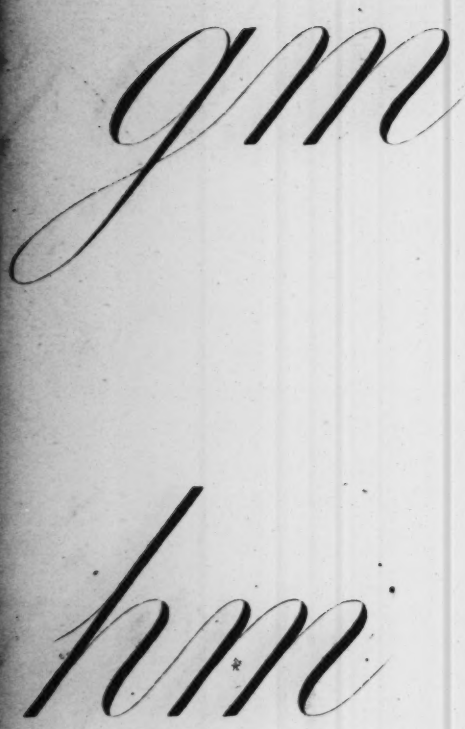

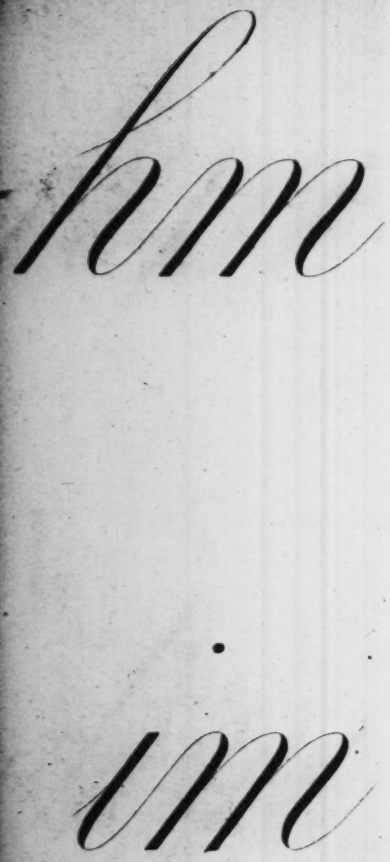

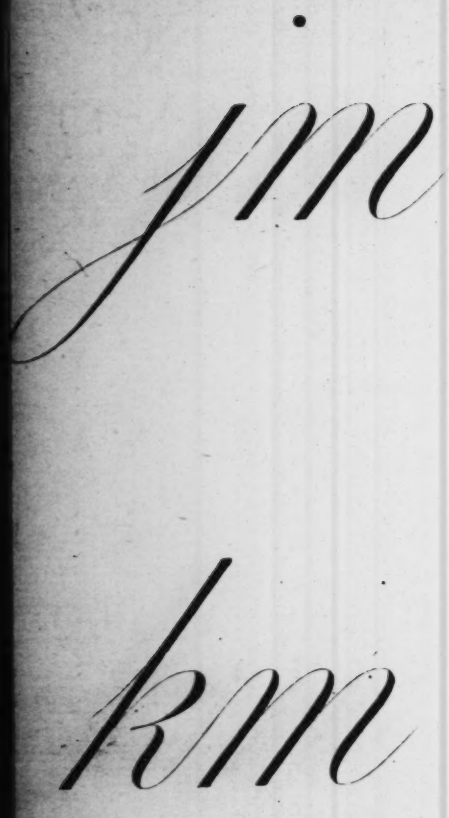

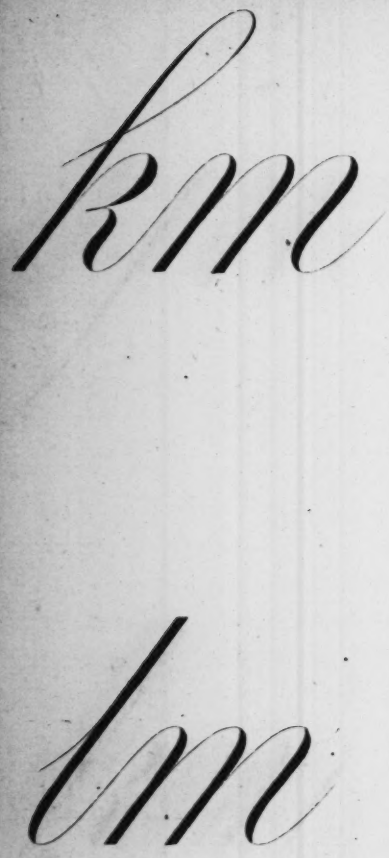

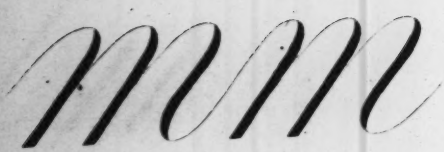

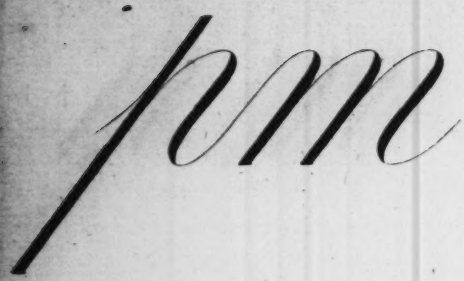

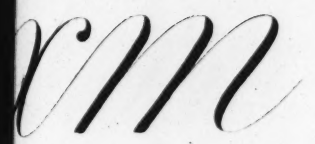

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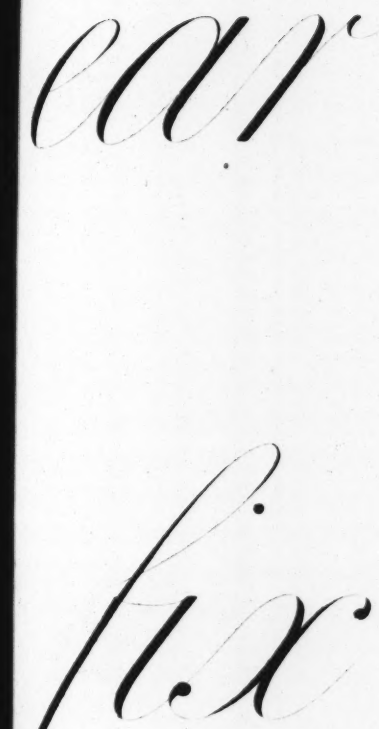

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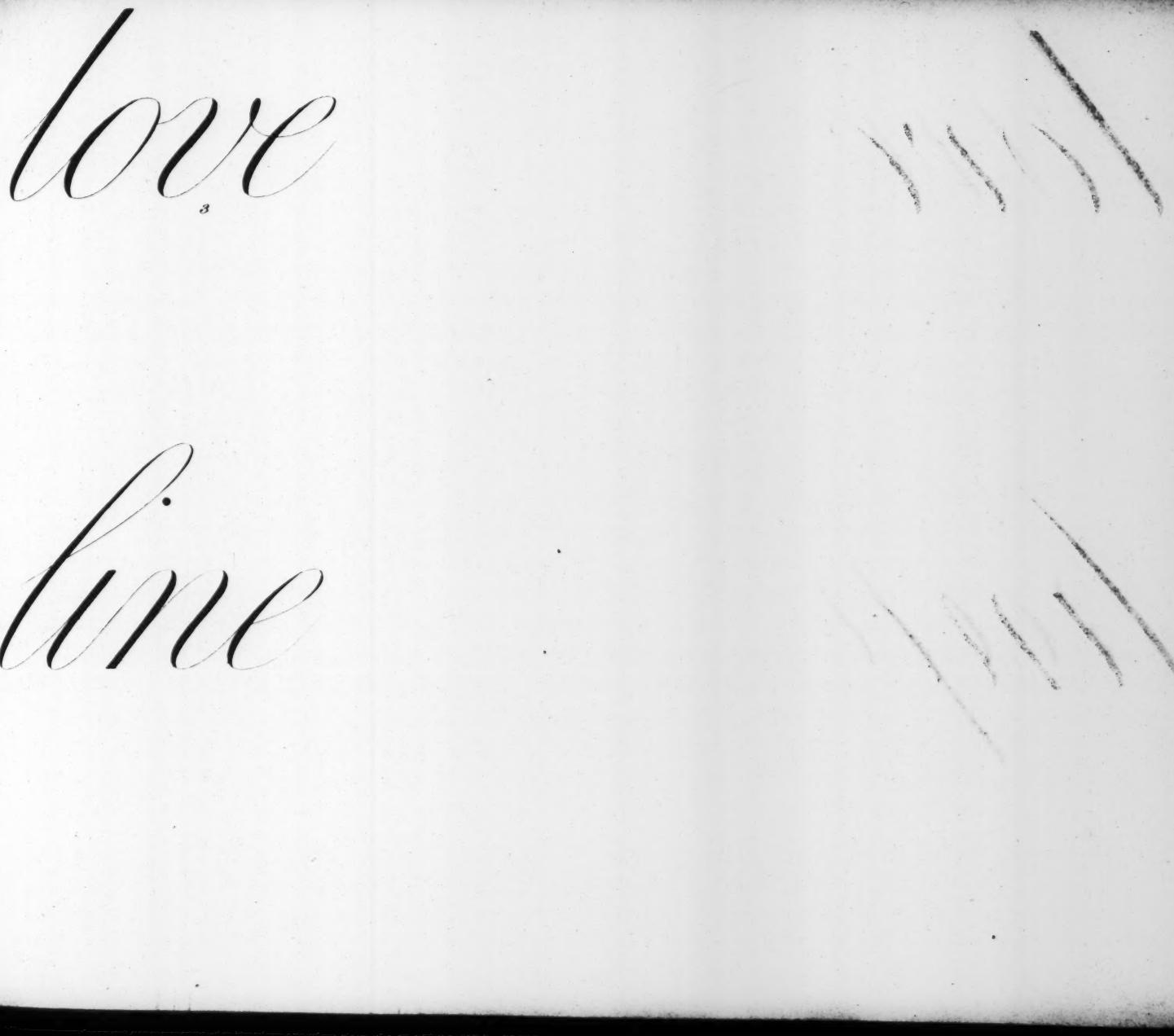
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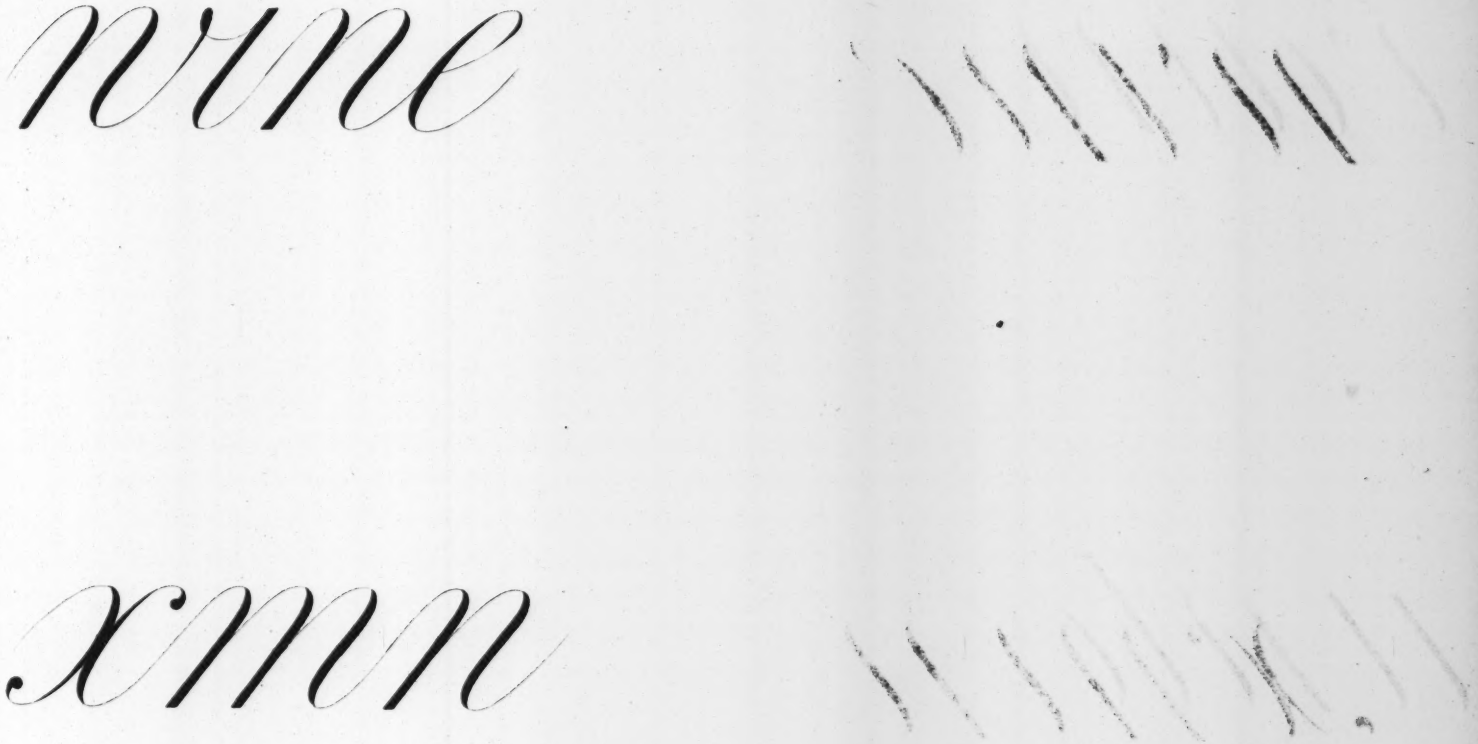

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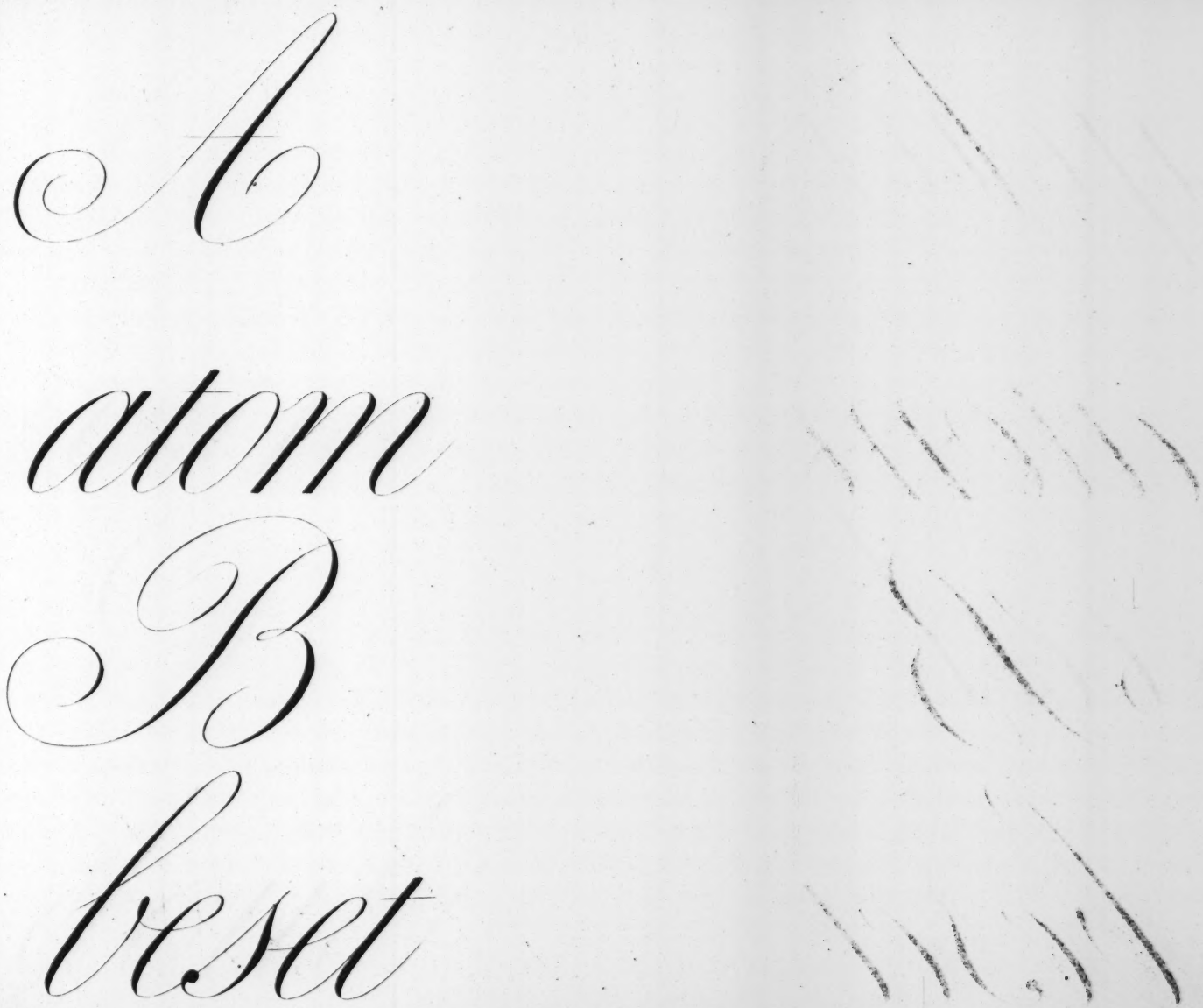

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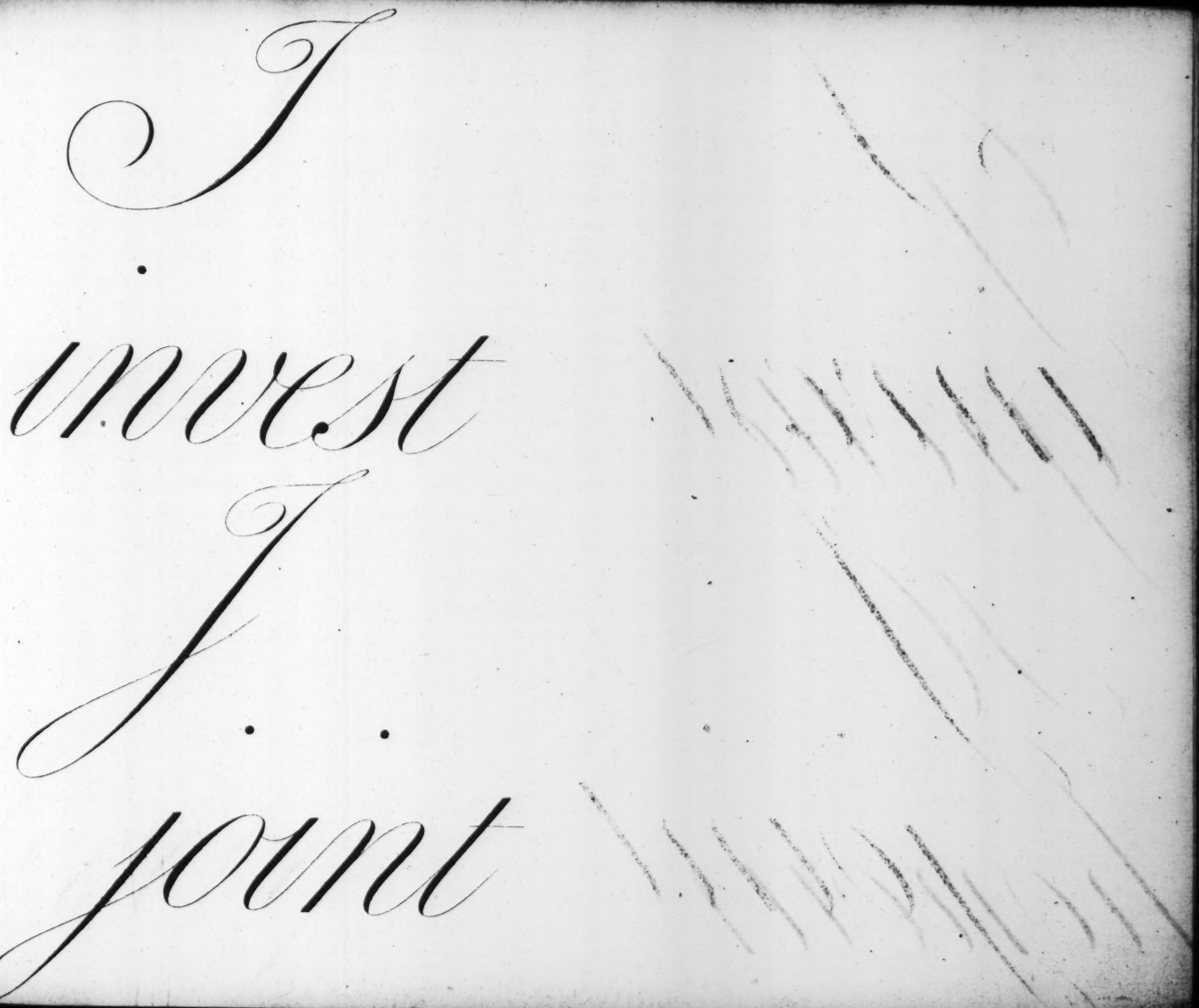
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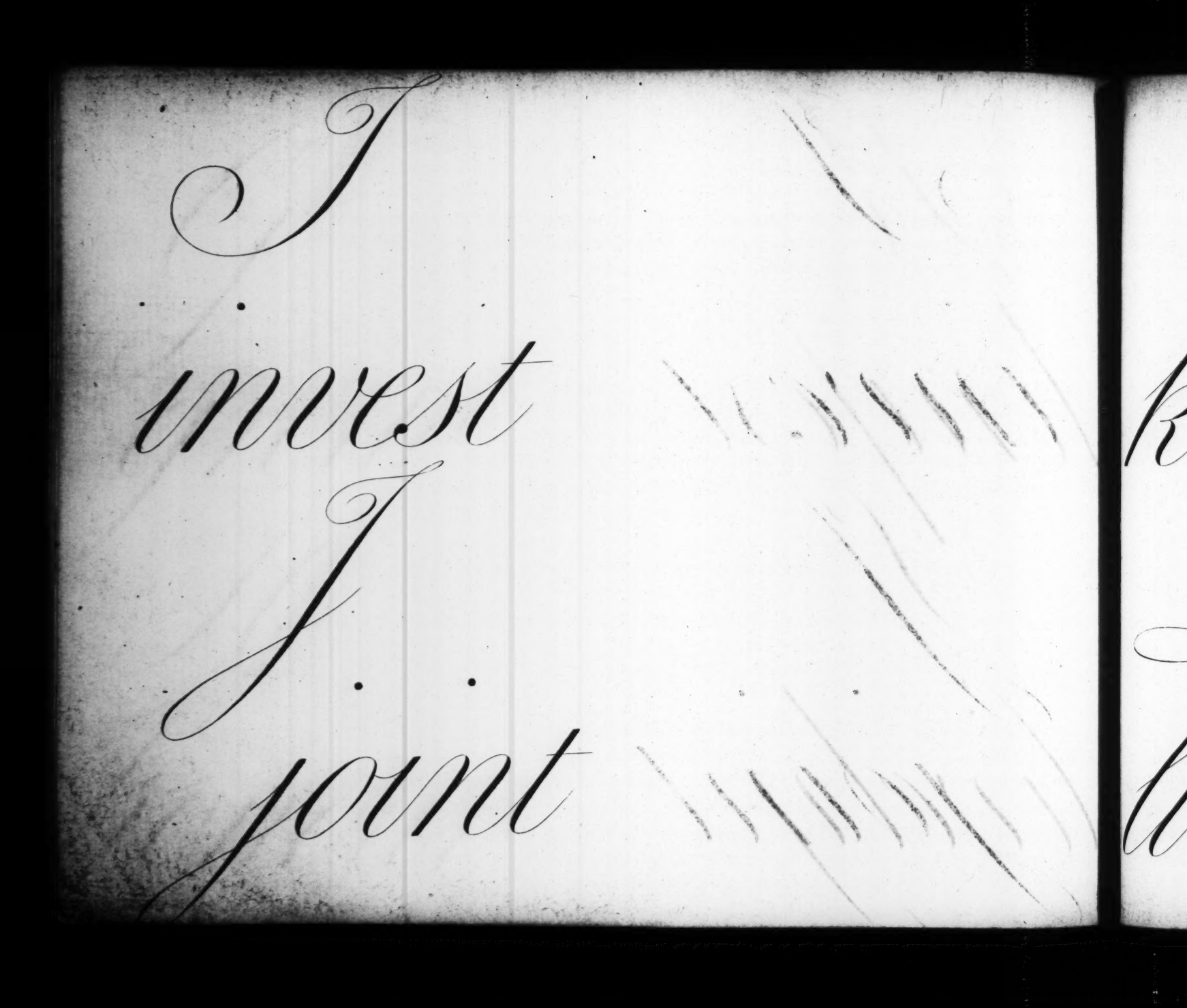
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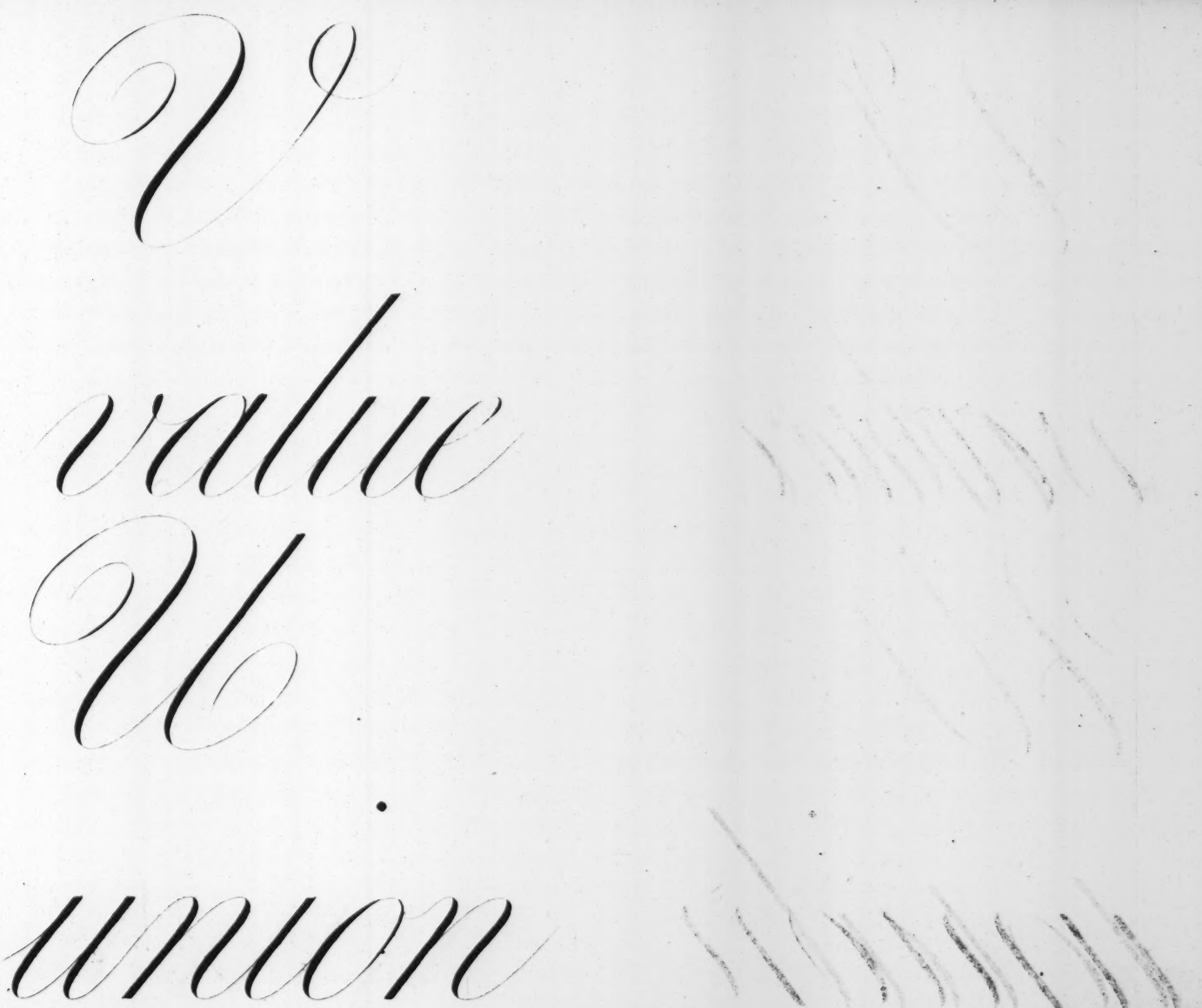

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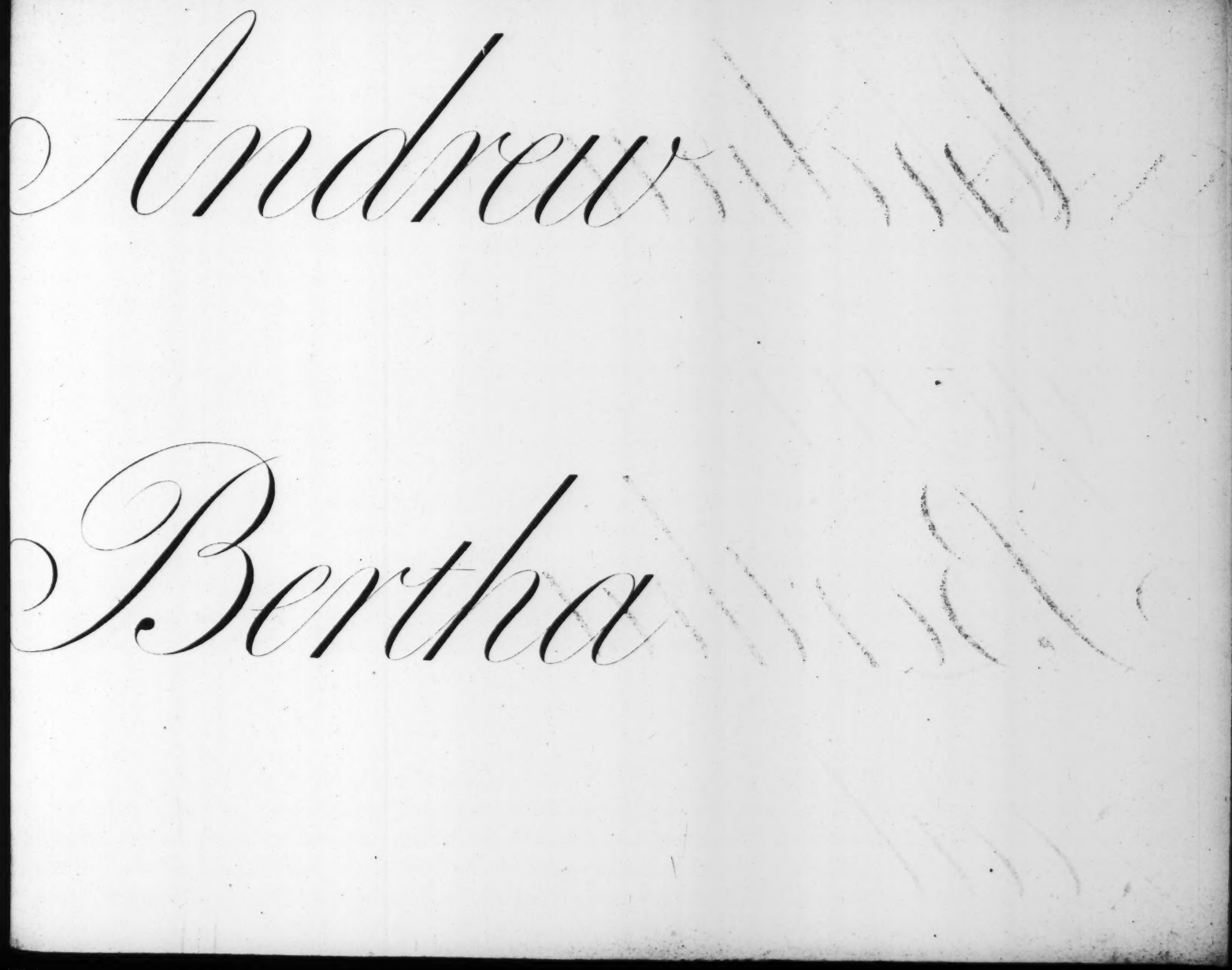
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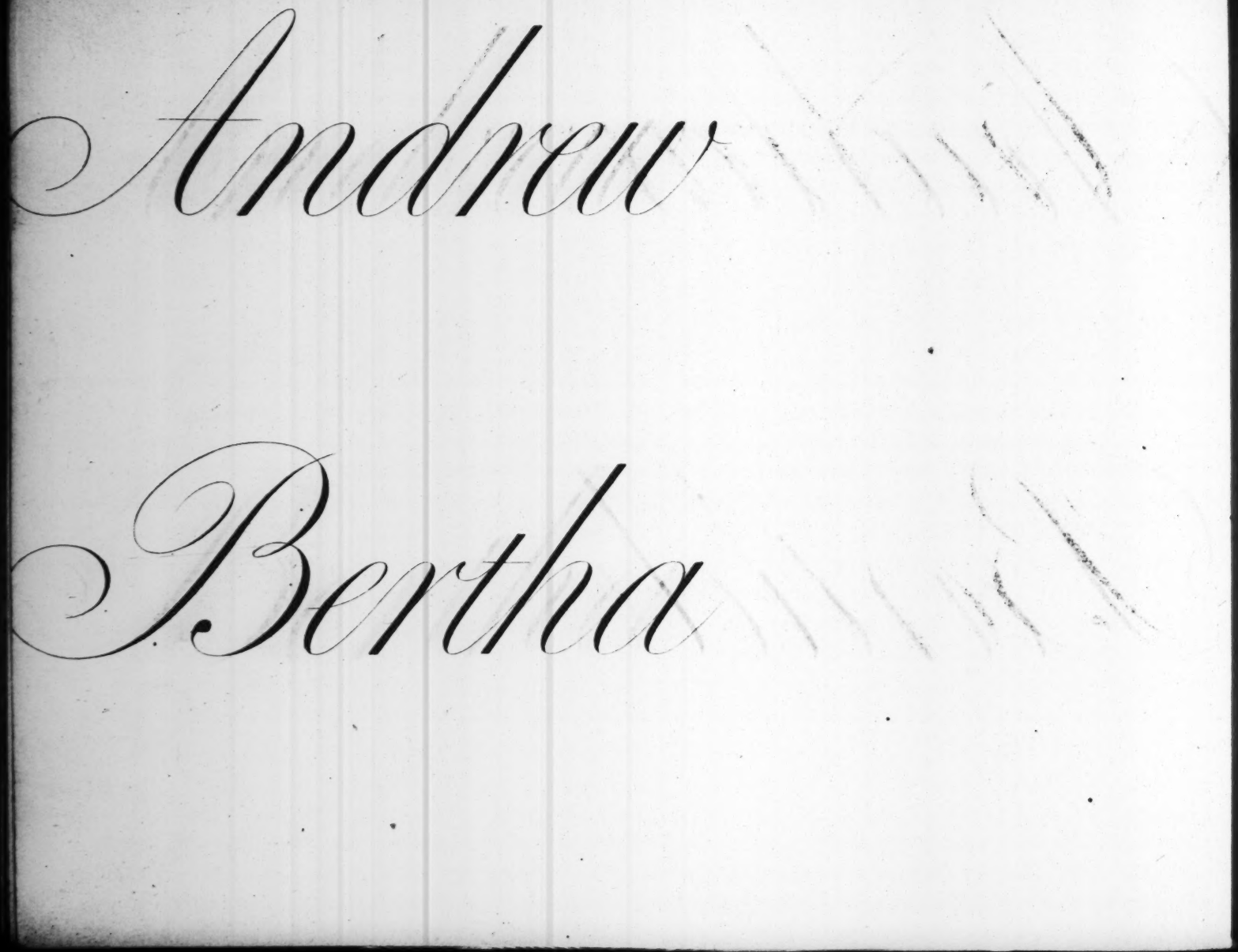
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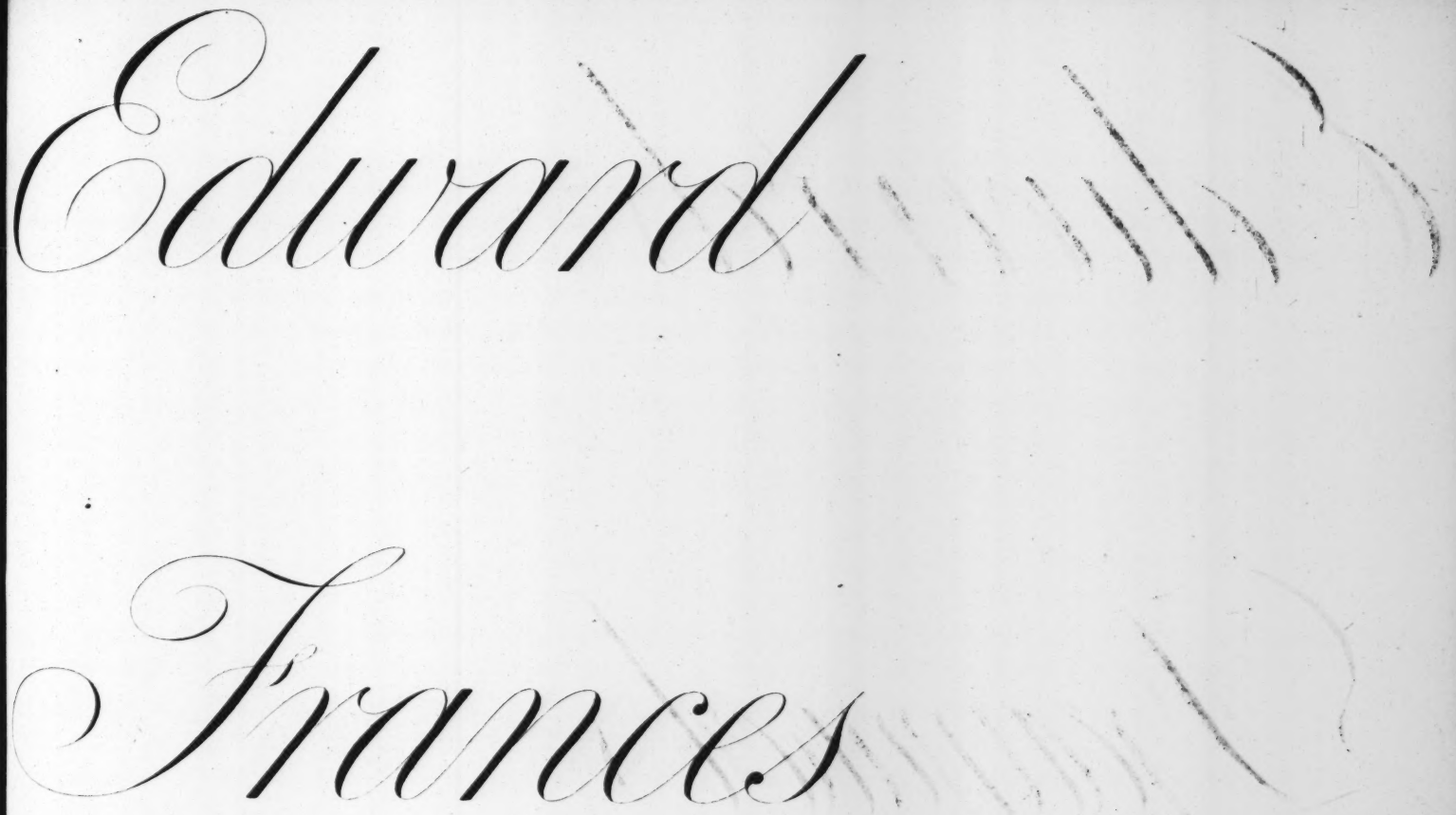
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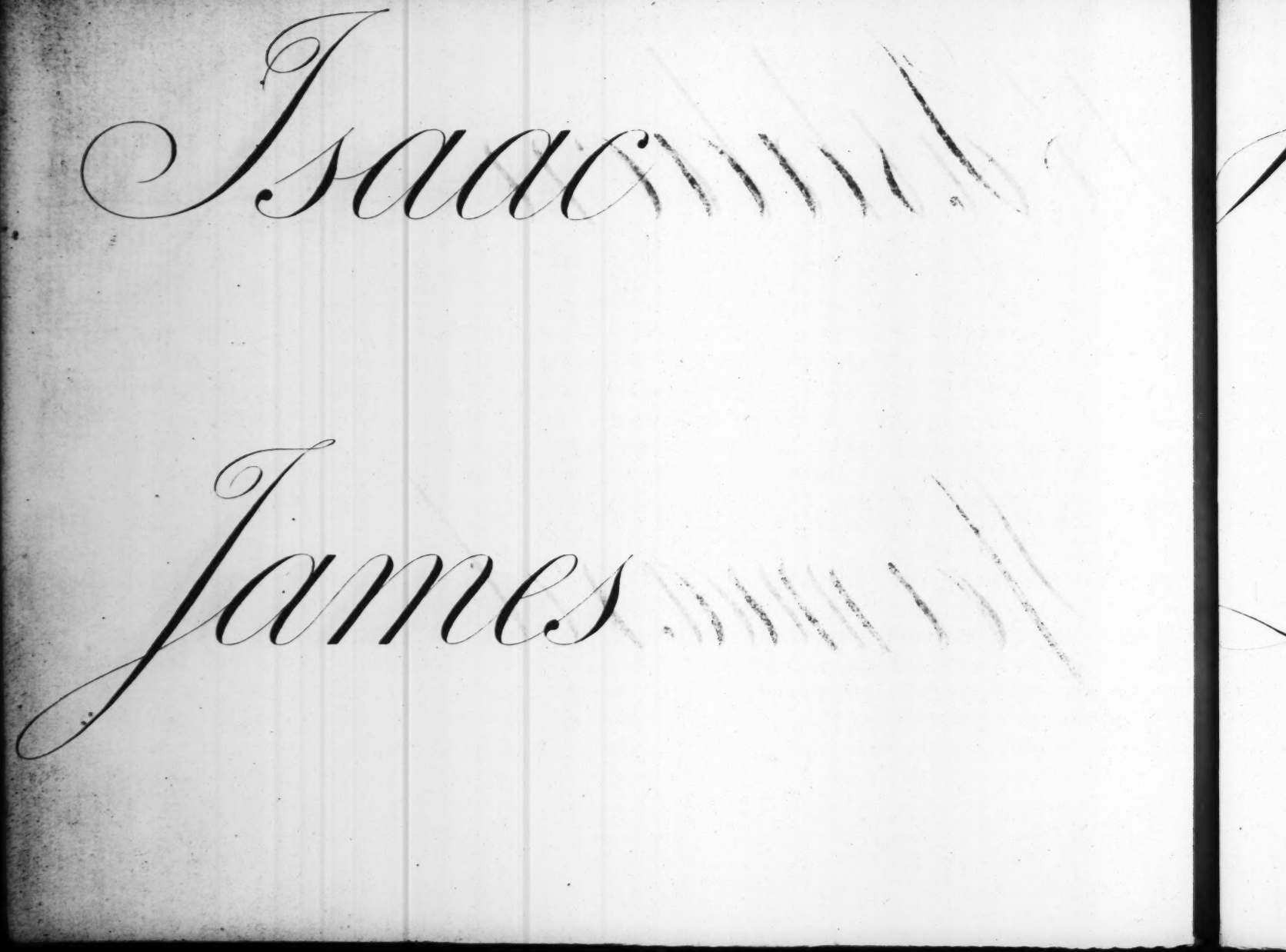
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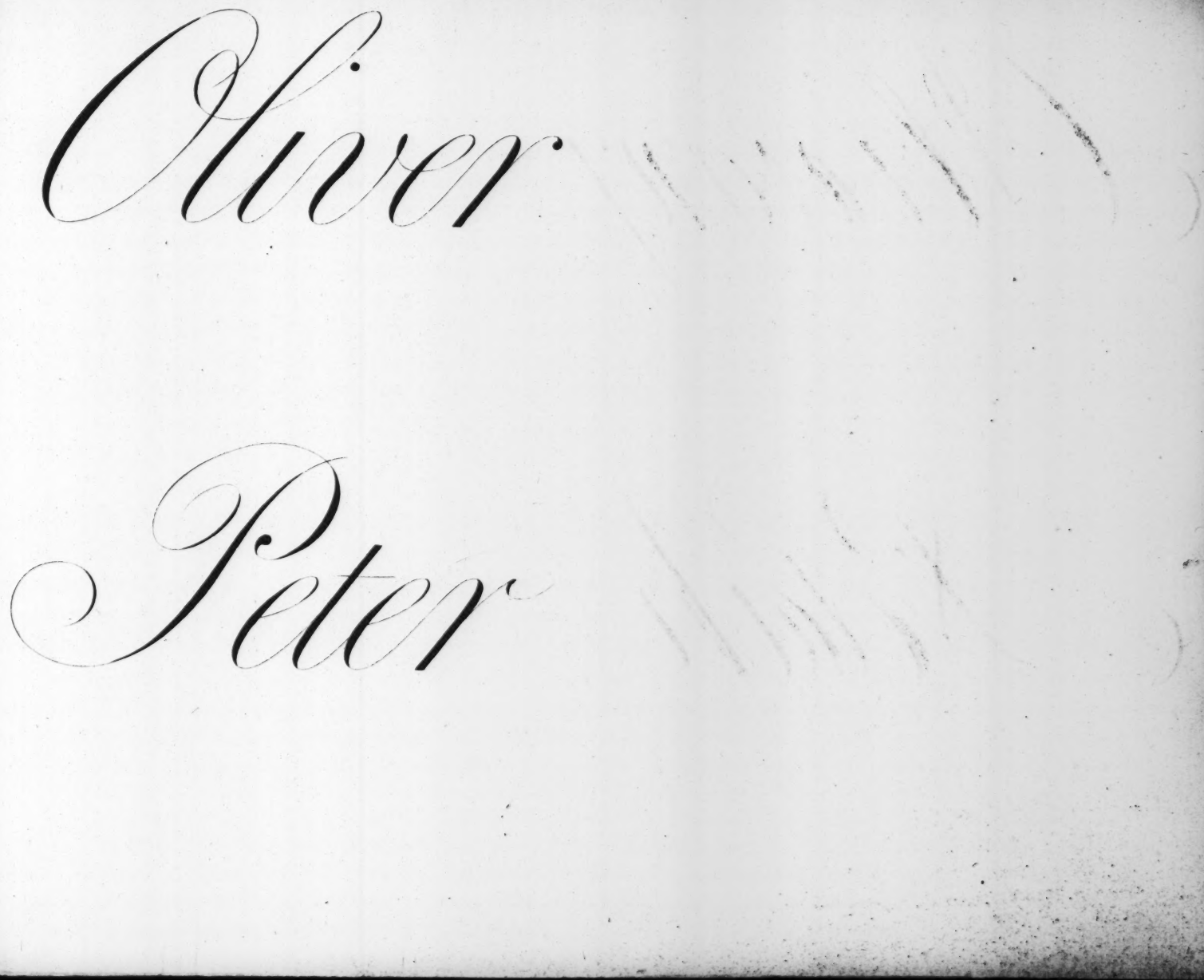
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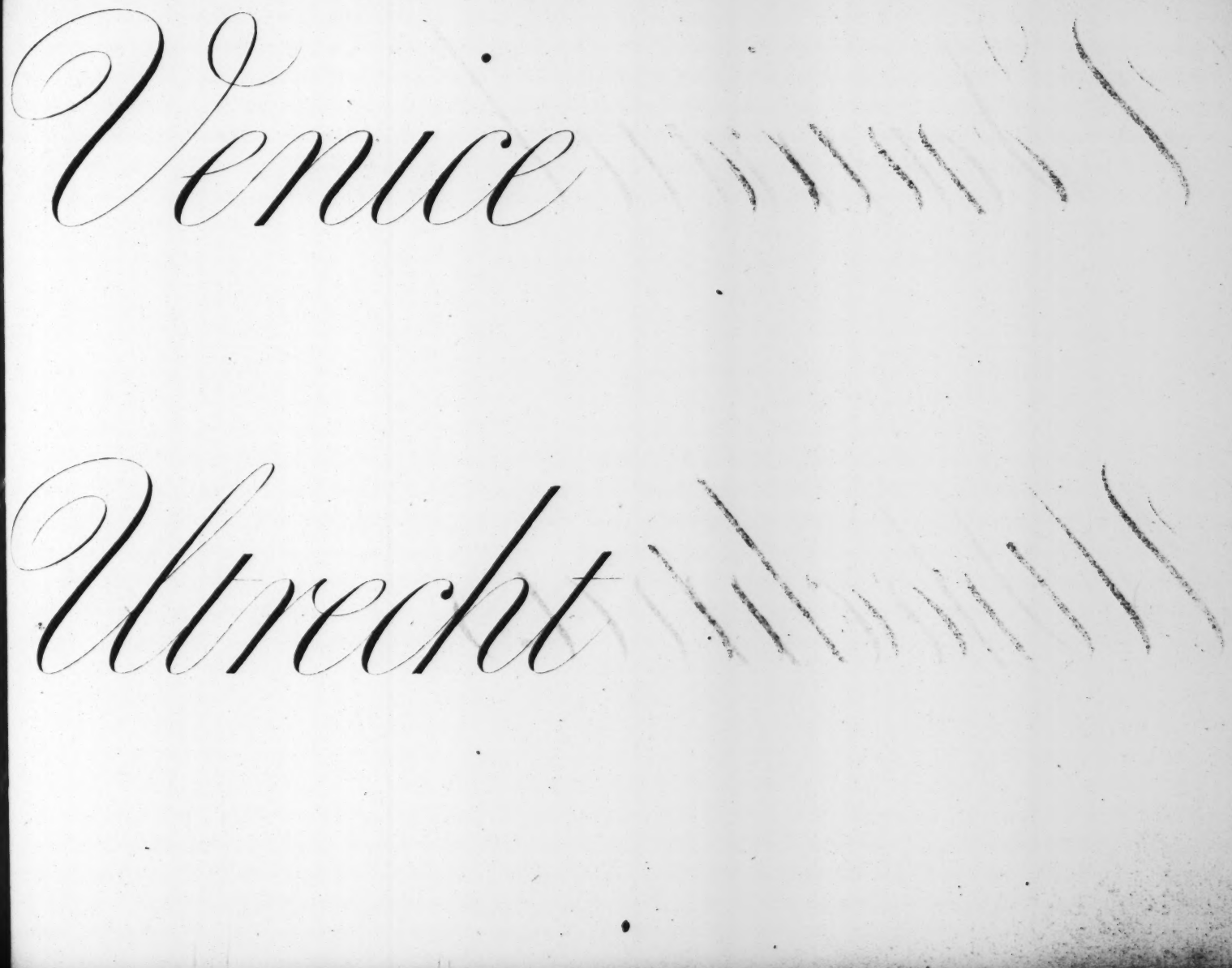
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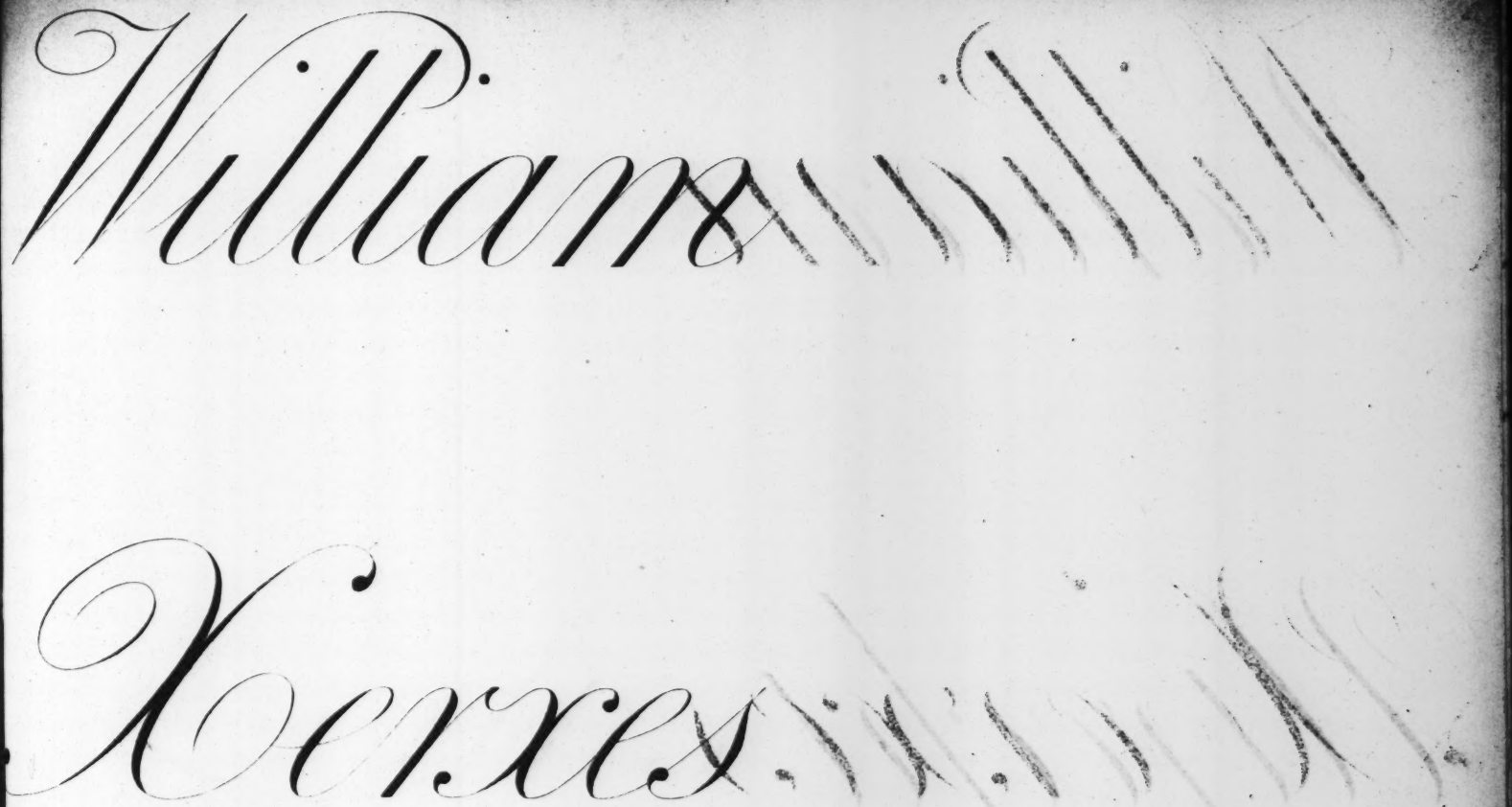
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